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NEGATIVE
BURN
MARK BODÉ • MARC ERICKSON • SCOTT BEADERSTADT • BRIAN BOLLAND • MATTHEW SMITH • JOHN BERGIN

NEGATIVE BURN

A Mad Hatter Studios
International Product

Joe Pruett ~ Editor

VOLUME ONE
NUMBER TWENTY-ONE

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illustrated by Mark Bode'

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HI, STUD! :giggle:
MY NAME IS EVE AND THIS IS MY GARDEN OF EROTIC DELIGHTS. I'VE BEEN SO LONELY WITHOUT YOU... AND I BET YOU'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT ME, YOU NAUGHTY BOY!
IT'S THE SEASON OF LOVE AND I WANT TO LIVE OUT YOUR MOST INTIMATE DESIRES... ooh, OOOOoh... THINKING ABOUT IT MAKES ME... ooh, OOOOOH!
I'M BURNING WITH PASSION! I NEED A REAL MAN LIKE YOU TO COOL ME OFF! :SQUEE!:
I'M SO EXCITED :PUFF: PLEASE DON'T KEEP ME WAITING...
...CALL ME NOW! 1-900 HOT BABE!

LOVE IS BLIND
when you're on the phone

Trollords

by Beaderstadt, Fricke and Strazewski

YES! FOR ONLY $2.95 PER MINUTE, YOU CAN TALK LIVE, ONE ON ONE WITH OUR HOT, NASTY LUSCIOUS BABE OPERATOR! DON'T MISS OUT WHILE SHE'S ALL WARMED UP! THE FIRST FIFTEEN SECONDS ARE ABSOLUTELY FREE! ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ARE ACCEPTED.

I DON'T THINK SO.
YEAH, REMEMBER THAT BILL FROM THE PSYCHIC ASTROLOGY LOTTERY HOTLINE...?
...AND ALL THOSE ACCORDIONS WE GOT THROUGH THE BARGAIN BASEMENT SHOPPING CLUB?! KELLY WOULD PITCH A FIT IF WE DID THAT AGAIN!
click!

WELL, KELLY AIN'T HERE. LET'S JUST GO MEET THIS EVE CHICK FACE TO FACE! BUT FIRST, WHY DON'T WE SPRUCE UP A BIT!
WAIT 'TIL SHE GETS A LOAD OF ME!
SKIRTS ALWAYS FALL FOR A STUD IN A UNIFORM.
TRAY MAGNIFEEK!
HEY, GUYS, DON'T YOU THINK MY PROFILE LOOKS MORE AND MORE LIKE FABIO?
FABIO THIS!
FWAKA FWAKA FWAKA
ZEE BABES CANNOT RESIST ZEE ODAIR OF ZEE WILD HYACINTH, OUI?
LISTEN UP, GOONS...
...WE LET THE FLOOZY DECIDE WHICH ONE OF US SHE WANTS -- JUST LIKE LOVE CONNECTION! IT'S EVERY TROLL FOR HIMSELF! AGREED? LET'S BOOGIE!
BROW
COLD CREAM
BROW
BROW

Ooooh, CHAD, YOU'RE AWFUL! STOP IT!
EVELYN, LISTEN UP. THIS IS ROXIE. SHE MAY BE OUR NEW SPOKESGIRL. SHE'S GOT POTENTIAL... AS WELL AS EVERYTHING ELSE! HOO-HA!
DELIGHTED TO MEETCHA'!
I'M TAKING HER OUT FOR A NIGHT ON THE TOWN TO SEE IF SHE CAN PASS THE MUSTER. I MAY SIGN HER TO OUR T.V. COMMERCIAL CONTRACT.
CHARMED, I'M SURE.
IT'S A SLOW NIGHT. OUR LAST SPOT RAN OVER AN HOUR AGO, SO I DON'T EXPECT YOU'LL BE TOO BUSY.
GREAT. :SNIFF-SNIFF: ARE YOU USING A NEW COLOGNE? IT SMELLS LIKE PANSY DAY AT THE FISH MARKET!
11:16
I'M NOT WEARING ANYTHING... AND I HOPE WITHIN THE HOUR I CAN GET ROXIE IN THE SAME POSITION!
HOO-HA!
CRUDE, AS EVER, MISTER BOZZIO.
WELL, I'M OUT OF HERE IN FORTY-FIVE MINUTES. I'LL TURN ON THE ANSWERING MACHINE AND LOCK UP.
OH, DID YOU GET A CHANCE TO FINISH UP MY TAPES?

I KNEW I FORGOT SOMETHING! SORRY. I PROMISE I'LL FINISH THE EDITS BEFORE THE WEEKEND. THE DEMOS SOUND GREAT SO FAR!
Uh-huh.
CHADDY, LET'S GO. I'M HUNGRY!
DUTY CALLS...IF MY UNCLE STOPS BY, TELL HIM I'M UNAVOIDABLY DETAINED WITH A CLIENT. I'M GONNA MAKE HER A STAR!
YEAH, SURE.
HEY, CHAD!
WHAT?
I DON'T CARE HOW INSATIABLE YOU TWO GET TONIGHT...USE PROTEC-TION.
Oh...YEAH. THANKS.
SLAM!
WHAT A PATHETIC JERK.

RING!
tak
SPEAKER PHONE
BRRRRR
click
HELLO, THIS IS EVE. I'M SO GLAD YOU CALLED. I WANT TO--
KLIK
HELLO? TOO BAD. I THOUGHT WE HAD SOMETHING THERE, STUDLEY.
I MUST BE LOSING MY MIND-- NOW I SMELL CHOCOLATES!
ZEY ARE PETITE TURTLE PIES...
WOULD YOU CARE FOR ONE, MY DARLING?
OOK!
WAK!
I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE OR HOW YOU GOT IN HERE, BUT YOU JUST BOUGHT YOURSELVES A PACK OF TROUBLE! I'M CALLING THE POLICE.
HOLD ON! WE DON'T MEAN ANY HARM. WE THOUGHT THIS WAS THE GARDEN OF EARTHLY DELIGHTS. WE'RE LOOKING FOR EVE.
WHA--? WHO? Oh, THAT PHONY COMMERCIAL. THAT'S THE LAMEST EXCUSE I'VE EVER HEARD. YOU MUST KNOW THAT NONE OF THIS IS REAL. IT'S JUST A SET DESIGN. EVE WAS A HIRED MODEL.
WHADDAYA MEAN, PHONY? SHE'S ON T.V. EVERY NIGHT!
WE'RE NOT HERE TO HASSLE ANYONE. WE'RE HERE FOR ROMANCE!
ARE YOU FOOLIN'? CAN'T YOU SEE WE GOT ALL SPIFFED UP FOR HER?!

NO, ACTUALLY, I CAN'T. I'M BLIND.
LOOK, GUYS, MY NAME IS EVELYN.
I WORK HERE PART TIME, ANSWERING THE HOTLINE. I TAKE THE CALLS, I PLAY ALONG WITH THE CALLERS' FANTASIES, KEEP THEM ON FOR AS LONG AS POSSIBLE AND GO ON TO THE NEXT ONE. THERE'S NOBODY ELSE HERE. JUST ME.
NOW, WHY DON'T YOU GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE?!
BAD WORD! POTTY MOUTH! I'M TELLING!
THERE, THERE, JERRY.
HEY, THERE'S NO REASON TO GET ALL HUFFY. YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S PRETENDING TO BE SOMETHING YOU'RE NOT.
LOOK. I TOLD YOU, IT'S A JOB.
PRETTY WEIRD WAY TO MAKE A LIVING.
TRUE.
THE WORLD IS FULL OF CRACK-POTS. I GET A LOT OF WILD CALLS. BUT THEY USUALLY HANG UP AFTER A FEW MINUTES.
EVERY NOW AND THEN, I GET A FEW PEOPLE WHO JUST WANT SOMEONE TO TALK TO. I'M A SYMPATHETIC STRANGER WHO JUST LISTENS TO THEM.
THEY CONFESS, EXPRESS AND CRY OUT ALL OF THEIR CONCERNS AND PROBLEMS AND I HEAR THEM OUT WITHOUT ANY EXPECTATIONS OR JUDGEMENTS.

THERE ARE SO MANY LONELY PEOPLE OUT THERE. BECAUSE OF MY CONDITION, I KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO FEEL ALL ALONE IN A DARK WORLD.
I THINK I'M HELPING IN MY OWN SMALL WAY.
I ADMIT I ALSO DO THIS FOR THE MONEY. IT HELPS ME BECOME INDEPENDENT. THE EXPERIENCE OF TALKING TO SO MANY OTHERS WILL HELP ME WHEN I HANG UP ON THIS "PHONE ENTERTAINMENT" BUSINESS.
YOU SEE, I HOPE TO ONE DAY HOST MY OWN LEGITIMATE ADVICE SHOW ON A TALK RADIO STATION. CHAD IS HELPING ME WITH MY RESUMÉ, SUBMISSIONS AND DEMO TAPES.
THAT FREAK?!! HE'S A LOSER! HE CAN'T EVEN HELP HIMSELF OUT THE DOOR! DO YOU KNOW WHAT HE --
I KNOW ALL ABOUT HIM AND WHAT HE DOES.
I ALSO KNOW HIS INNER SELF. HIS FEARS. HIS FEELINGS AND DREAMS.
HE'S NOT SUCH A BAD KID. HE LACKS VISION. HE'S BEEN THROUGH A LOT.
HIS PARENTS WERE DIVORCED WHEN HE WAS YOUNGER AND HIS ELDERLY UNCLE, WHO OWNS THIS AGENCY HAD TO RAISE HIM. CHAD WAS RUSHED THROUGH THREE YEARS OF COMMUNICATIONS COLLEGE. THAT'S WHERE WE MET. SO HE KNOWS A LITTLE ABOUT THE BUSINESS.
HE WOULD MAKE ONE HELL OF A PRODUCER. HE'S JUST MISPLACED AND MISUNDERSTOOD.

I DO WORRY A LOT ABOUT HIM. HE GOES FROM ONE DESTRUCTIVE RELATIONSHIP TO ANOTHER ... AND IF HE DOESN'T SHAPE UP SOON, HE'LL FIND HIS END AT THE HANDS OF AN ANGRY BOYFRIEND OR AIDS.
I WANT BOTH OF US TO GET OUT OF THIS BUSINESS ... FAST.
BEEEEP
12:00
SORRY, KIDS. I'M GOING TO HAVE TO ASK YOU TO LEAVE NOW. IT'S TOO BAD YOU DIDN'T FIND YOUR EARTHLY DESIRES... OR SOME BIG-CHESTED, BRAINLESS BOMBSHELL....
BUT WE LIKE YOU BETTER.

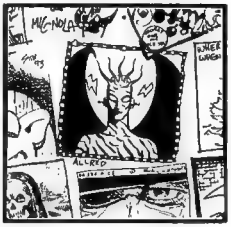
WHOA.
LOOK, CHUMS, WHY DON'T WE CONTINUE OUR LITTLE CHAT? WE CAN ORDER OUT. DO YOU LIKE PIZZA?
YIPEEEEEEEE

ONE YEAR LATER...
...AND I JUST WANTED TO CALL AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR GREAT ADVICE. MY FAMILY AND I LISTEN TO YOU EVERY DAY AND ENJOY YOUR SHOW VERY MUCH!
MY PLEASURE! THAT WAS MABEL FROM WINNEMAGAKEE, WHO IS GOING TO STOP BLAMING HERSELF AND GET ON WITH HER LIFE.
PHONE LINES ARE NOW OPEN AND WE'LL BE RIGHT BACK TO THE EVELYN ROQUELAURE SHOW AFTER THESE MESSAGES....
WLUP
ANOTHER GREAT SHOW, EV! THE RATINGS ARE GOING THROUGH THE ROOF! MY UNCLE IS REALLY PROUD OF YOU! YOU'VE MADE THE BIG TIME.
WE MADE IT, CHAD! I COULDN'T HAVE MADE IT WITHOUT MY #-NUMBER ONE PRODUCER!
I REALLY APPRECIATE YOU TAKING ME ALONG FOR THE RIDE. IT'S HELPED ME OUT A LOT.
GLAD I COULD DO IT, BUT YOU STRAIGHTENED YOURSELF OUT.
:SNIFF: WHAT'S THAT?
Oh -- I FOUND THIS OUTSIDE THE STUDIO DOOR. IT'S A PIZZA BOX WITH SOME CHOCOLATES INSIDE AND A FUNNY SCENT TO IT. KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT?
SMELLS LIKE WILD HYACINTH. LET ME HAVE IT.
LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE PUNCHED SOME HOLES IN IT.
IT'S BRAILLE...
...IT'S A LETTER FROM SOME SECRET ADMIRERS...
CONGRATULATIONS FROM YOUR NUMBER 1 FANS
LOVE HARRY, LARRY, AND JERRY

Trollords™

"FACES OF DEATH" ART PRINT

This handsome 25" x 19" art print features interpretations of Death by over 70 artists, including Berke Breathed, Terry Gilliam, Will Eisner, Alex Toth, Dave Sim, Alex Ross, Mike Allred, Steve Rude, Evan Dorkin, Paul Pope and MANY MORE! Limited to 750 copies. All proceeds donated to Ronanld McDonald House.

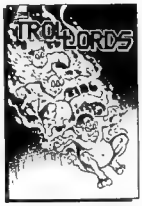


BACK ISSUES

#1 - 1st Appearance
#2 - NOT AVAILABLE!
#3 - Kiss of Death
#4 - Pie Fight Issue
#5 - Halloween Issue
#6 - Christmas Issue
#7 - Hell On Wheels: Part 1
#8 - Hell On Wheels: Part 2
#9 - Dreamland
#10 - Swimsuit Issue
#11 - Get A Job!
#12 - Bedbugs
#13 - Lessons: One
#14 - Lessons: Two
#15 - Lessons: Three
Jerry's BIG FUN BOOK (color)

DEATH MODEL KIT

This model of the Trollords' arch nemesis is one foot tall when assembled. Sculpted by Ron Bogacki of Inspire Studios



TROLLORDS POSTER

Liven up your room with this 13" x 20" FULL COLOR poster capturing the TROLLORDS in all their biphin' glory!

To order make a copy of this form. Complete all sections accordingly. Postage and handling is included in all prices. Allow 3-4 weeks for delivery. Make all checks payable to Scott Beaderstadt and send to: TRU STUDIOS; 100 N. Mason; Suite 305; Bensenville, IL 60106

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COMICS $1.50 each (List issues you want) _____

DEATH MODEL KIT $60 _____ TROLLORDS POSTER $10 _____

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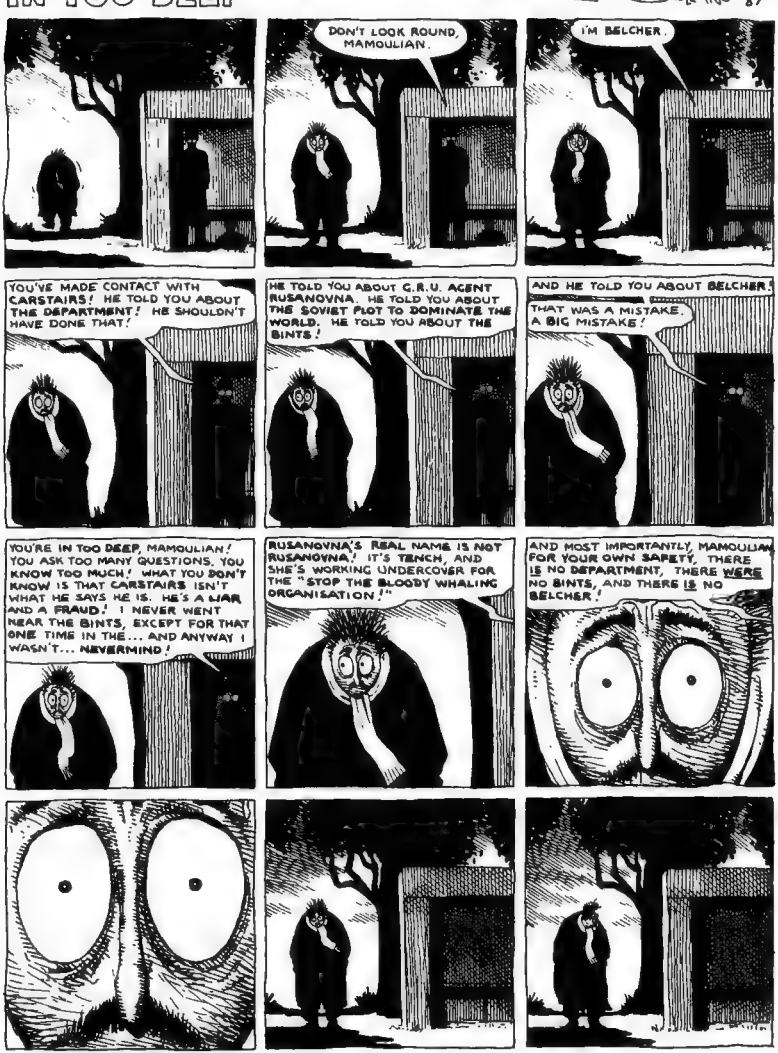
WATCH FOR THE 100+ PAGE TROLLORDS SOFTCOVER GRAPHIC NOVEL REPRINTING THEIR ORIGIN AND FEATURING A NEW 25 PAGE STORY: DEATH DREAMS SUMMER 1995 FROM TRU STUDIOS

MR. MAMOULIAN
IN TOO DEEP

24 BOLLAND 22.12.87


DON'T LOOK ROUND, MAMOULIAN.
I'M BELCHER.
YOU'VE MADE CONTACT WITH CARSTAIRS! HE TOLD YOU ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT! HE SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE THAT!
HE TOLD YOU ABOUT G.R.U. AGENT RUSANOVNA. HE TOLD YOU ABOUT THE SOVIET PLOT TO DOMINATE THE WORLD. HE TOLD YOU ABOUT THE BINTS!
AND HE TOLD YOU ABOUT BELCHER!
THAT WAS A MISTAKE. A BIG MISTAKE!
YOU'RE IN TOO DEEP, MAMOULIAN! YOU ASK TOO MANY QUESTIONS. YOU KNOW TOO MUCH! WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW IS THAT CARSTAIRS ISN'T WHAT HE SAYS HE IS. HE'S A WAR AND A FRAUD! I NEVER WENT NEAR THE BINTS, EXCEPT FOR THAT ONE TIME IN THE... AND ANYWAY I WASN'T... NEVERMIND!
RUSANOVNA'S REAL NAME IS NOT RUSANOVNA! IT'S TENCH, AND SHE'S WORKING UNDERCOVER FOR THE "STOP THE BLOODY WHALING ORGANISATION!"
AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, MAMOULIAN FOR YOUR OWN SAFETY, THERE IS NO DEPARTMENT, THERE WERE NO BINTS, AND THERE IS NO BELCHER!

NO LOCKS CAN HOLD
HOUDINI
"BULBENIK"
By
MARC ERICKSON
MAY 1895
THE WELSH BROTHERS TRAVELING CIRCUS - JUST OUTSIDE OF BETHLEHEM, PENNSYLVANIA ..
HONESTLY, MADAME HOUDINI-
I KEEP TELLING YOU- CALL ME BESS.
PALACE ORIENT
10¢
THE WELSH BROS. ALL UNITED GOLDEN SHOWS
BESS - IT'S AWFULLY KIND OF YOU TO MOTHER ME SO MUCH, BUT THIS IS JUST ONE OF MY SPELLS.
OH, HUSH, EMMA.
THE MORE'S THE MERRIER. AS LONG AS I'M TENDING TO THE KOLLWITZ'S BOY, I MAY AS WELL HAVE THE EXTRA PRACTICE.
YOU'RE A NATURAL.
ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T HAVE ANY OF YOUR OWN?

NO.
NO... BUT I WILL.
HARRY WILL BE A FAMOUS MAGICIAN AND WE'LL HAVE A GREAT BIG FAMILY WITH BOYS AND GIRLS. AND I'LL TEACH THEM HOW TO DANCE AND SING IN OUR HUGE OLD HOUSE. AND HARRY WILL HAVE ONE ON EACH KNEE PULLING CARDS AND COINS OUT OF THEIR EARS...
I DON'T SEE WHAT'S STOPPING YOU.
HARRY SAYS WE SHOULD WAIT JUST A LITTLE WHILE, AT LEAST UNTIL WE CAN GET STEADIER WORK IN THE MUSIC HALLS.
MONEY'S SCARCE, YOU KNOW.
WHEN THE BABY COMES YOU'LL FIND A WAY. THE KOLLWITZS GET BY ON THEIR BUDGET, AND THIS CIRCUS IS AS FAR FROM THE *BIG TIME* AS YOU CAN GET.
SSHHHHHH! YOU SHOULD'T LET ANYONE HEAR YOU SAY THAT!
I'M A "RARE PHYSICAL SPECIMEN." THEY WON'T FIRE ME.
ANYWAY, I'M SURPRISED YOU'RE NOT A FAMILY *ALREADY.*
HOW DO YOU MEAN?

I'VE SEEN THE WAY THE DANCING GIRLS LOOK AT HARRY. HE'S QUITE HANDSOME, AND SO FIT... HOW DO YOU MANAGE? WHY, IF HE WERE MY HUSBAND I'D....
WELL... MOSTLY WE ABSTAIN... WE'VE BEEN VERY LUCKY.
MOSTLY?
THERE HAVE BEEN A FEW NIGHTS WHEN WE...
I'M AFRAID WE JUST AREN'T VERY GOOD AT IT. AND IT'S SO...
UNCOMFORTABLE.
I'VE HEARD MANY WOMEN ENJOY IT MORE AFTER THEY ARE TAUGHT THE CORRECT MANIPULATION.
AS FOR MYSELF, I LIKE TO IMAGINE THE STRONGMEN WHEN I'M ALONE.
MISS SHALER! LISTEN TO US GOING ON. THIS IS HARDLY PROPER TALK.
EH-HEMM!

MISTER WELSH! I WAS JUST LOOKING AFTER EMMA AND THE KOLLWITZ'S SON. WE WERE— THAT IS EMMA AND I...
MISSES HOUDINI, I CAME TO SEE IF THE "OSSIFIED GIRL" WERE WAS GOING TO GRACE OUR STAGES WITH HER PRESENCE, OR IF SHE WAS STILL "AILING."
I'M FEELING BETTER MISTER WELSH.
I'LL BE THERE.
WONDERFUL.
MADAME SHALER IS VERY LUCKY THAT SHE IS A RARE PHYSICAL SPECIMEN. I WILL NOT TOLERATE THE PERFORMING STAFF BEING SICK!!
I JUST LOST HALF MY CLOWNS TO SOME FEVER!
THAT SIGN OUT FRONT DOES NOT READ "WELSH BROTHERS ALL-UNITED HOSPITAL!!" THE NEXT "JAUNDICED JUGGLER" I SEE GETS THEIR LAST DOLLAR, AND MY BOOT IN THE BACKSIDE!
NOW GOOD-DAY!
HELLO GIRLS!

M...MISTER WELSH..
GOOD DAY, MISTER WELSH.
HOUDINI. CHARMED.
BESS! I HAVE A NEW TRICK!
—OH! YOU HAVE THE EYFELE.
HELLO MINE ZUN.
HOW'S MY LITTLE ACROBAT TODAY, HUH?
HELLO, BULBA. HELLO, BUBBEE.
AH-BA BOO. AH-BA BOO.
YOU'RE MY LITTLE BULBENIK
BESS, DID YOU SEND MAMA THE CHECK?
YES.
WHAT'S YOUR NEW TRICK?
AKIMOTO'S TEACHING ME REGURGITATION.
I'VE SEEN WHAT HE EATS, AND I DON'T DOUBT IT.

WATCH ME-
NOTHING..
WILL WONDERS NEVER CEASE?!
W...WHAT'S THAT?
A POTATO.
A POTATO?
THE DISAPPEARING POTATO.
FORGIVE ME, BUT WON'T THAT LOOK BILLY ON A PLAYBILL?
IT'S NOT THE "DISAPPEARING POTATO!"
CAN'T YOU SEE?
SOON, I'LL BE ABLE TO SWALLOW ANYTHING AND BRING IT BACK UP AT WILL!
I'LL HAVE AN ADVANTAGE MOST MAGICIANS COULD ONLY DREAM OF. THE AUDIENCE CAN SEARCH ME ALL THEY WANT, AND THEY'LL NEVER FIND ANY-THING!

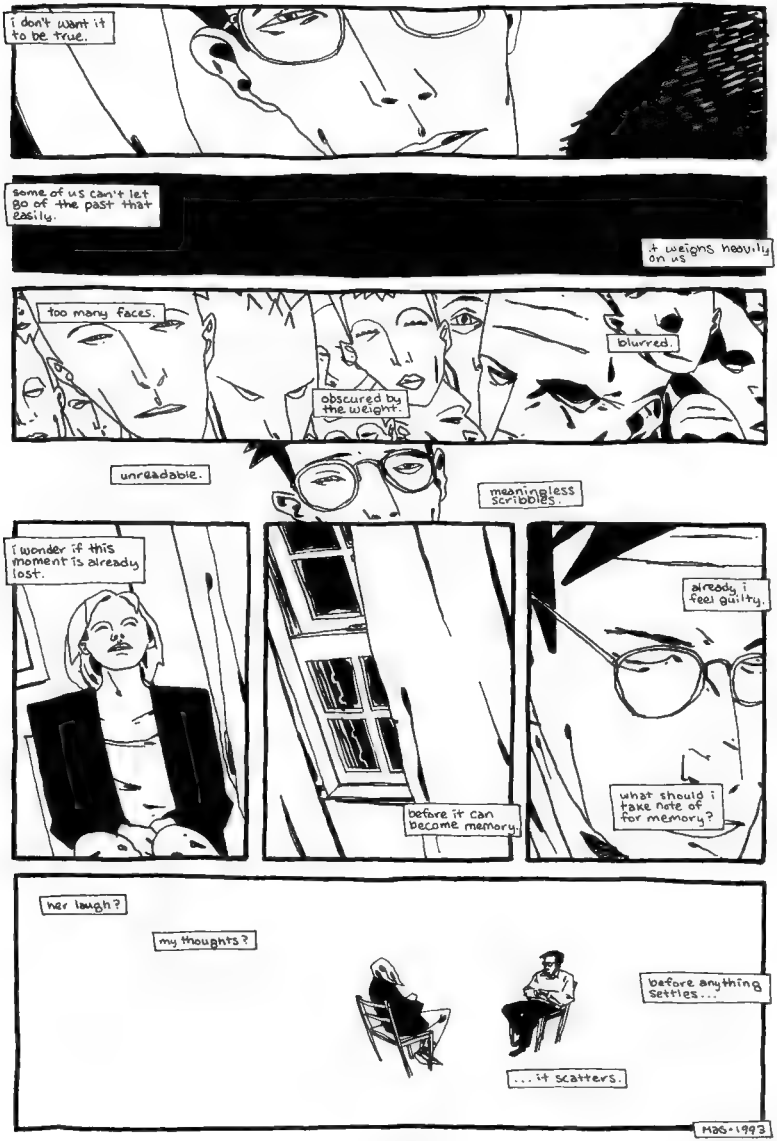
SILKS, BALLS, KEYS,-
AKIMOTO EVEN DOES NEEDLES!
THIS POTATO COULD BE MAKING US FIFTY, MAYBE SEVENTY-FIVE DOLLARS A WEEK! IT'S AT LEAST GOOD ENOUGH FOR THE HALL CIRCUIT!
WHY CAN'T YOU LOOK TO WHERE WE'RE GOING INSTEAD OF WHERE WE'RE AT?!
WE'LL NEVER GET ANYWHERE BY BEING SHORT-SIGHTED!
YOU MIGHT NOT CARE ABOUT THE ACT, BUT I DO!!
chink-clink
tinkle
GULP!

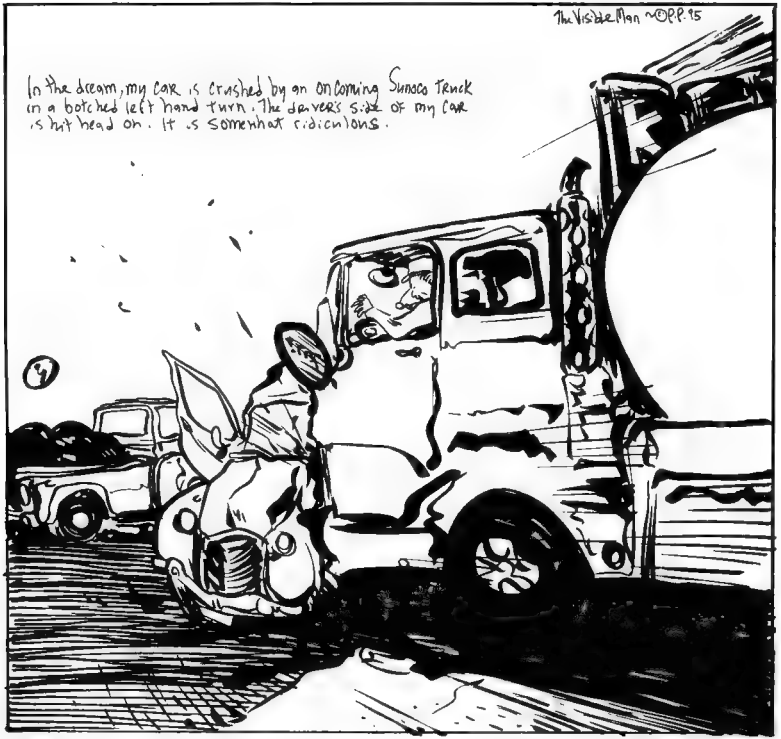
OUAGH OUAGH OUAGH
OAUOUETCH!
HOUDINI - YOU'RE FIRED!
SPLAT
NO LOCKS CAN HOLD Houdini

John Buscema Sketchbook

BRAIN
DEAD

"you can never go back."
she says with a drawled slowness.
she savors every word
like the smoke that drifts between her teeth.
conversations turn more and more to the past these days
we've become obsessed.
i should say something.
but i don't want to agree


i don't want it to be true.
some of us can't let go of the past that easily.
it weighs heavily on us
too many faces.
obscured by the weight.
blurred.
unreadable.
meaningless scribbles.
i wonder if this moment is already lost.
before it can become memory.
already i feel guilty.
what should i take note of for memory?
her laugh?
my thoughts?
before anything settles...
... it scatters.
MAG · 1993


In the dream, my car is crushed by an oncoming Sunoco Truck in a botched left hand turn. The drivers side of my car is hit head on. It is somewhat ridiculous.

I survive with a gimp. My face is horribly disfigured

This doesn't affect my cartooning career, but it does make me even more Reclusive. I order the grocery stoke to deliver my stuff to the doorstep

I leave money in an envelope in the mail slot For the delivery boy.
US MAIL

Lorie begins to gradually lose the ability to see my disfigured face To her, I am just Paul Pope.

She encourages me To buy my own groceries. I try to buy milk at 3 a.m. at an all night Supermarket.
BIG BEAR
24
HRS
The boys who stock the shelves look at me like I'm a horrible monster.

That worn through scuff on the back of my boot heel, which was once so trivial is now amplified by my disfigurements ...
I resolve to dress in only the finest clothes when I must go into public after that.
PAPER OR PLASTIC?
Children stare. My old friends don't know what to say. I become less than visible.
I reduce myself to a voice across a telephone wire ...
Long nights spent listening to the drip of some far off sink...

Then I go out to the river, and I find the smoothest, flattest stone I can find.
I keep it in my pocket for courage and rub it whenever I am afraid.
"I will be strong," I say to myself, because this is the smoothest, flattest stone I've ever felt."
I shave my head and wrap my face with thin, cotton gauze. Lorie helps me.
We experiment with different styles. The final version takes four hours to perfect.

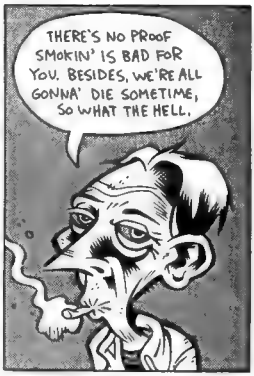
I become less than invisible.
In some ways, it is better not to have a face.
That's what I tell myself
Lorie comforts me. Everyone she knows is missing something.

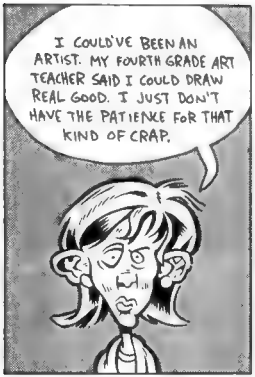
JUST A FEW

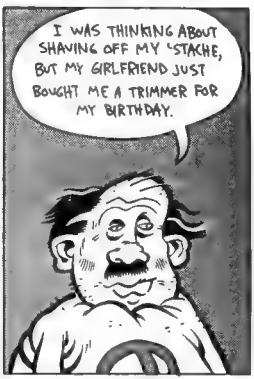
INTERESTING THINGS

PEOPLE HAVE SAID TO ME.

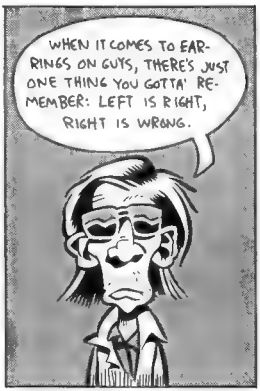
BY GREG DIGENTI

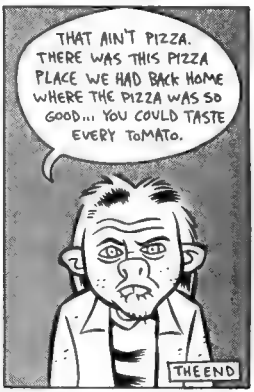



I COULD'VE BEEN AN ARTIST. MY FOURTH GRADE ART TEACHER SAID I COULD DRAW REAL GOOD. I JUST DON'T HAVE THE PATIENCE FOR THAT KIND OF CRAP.

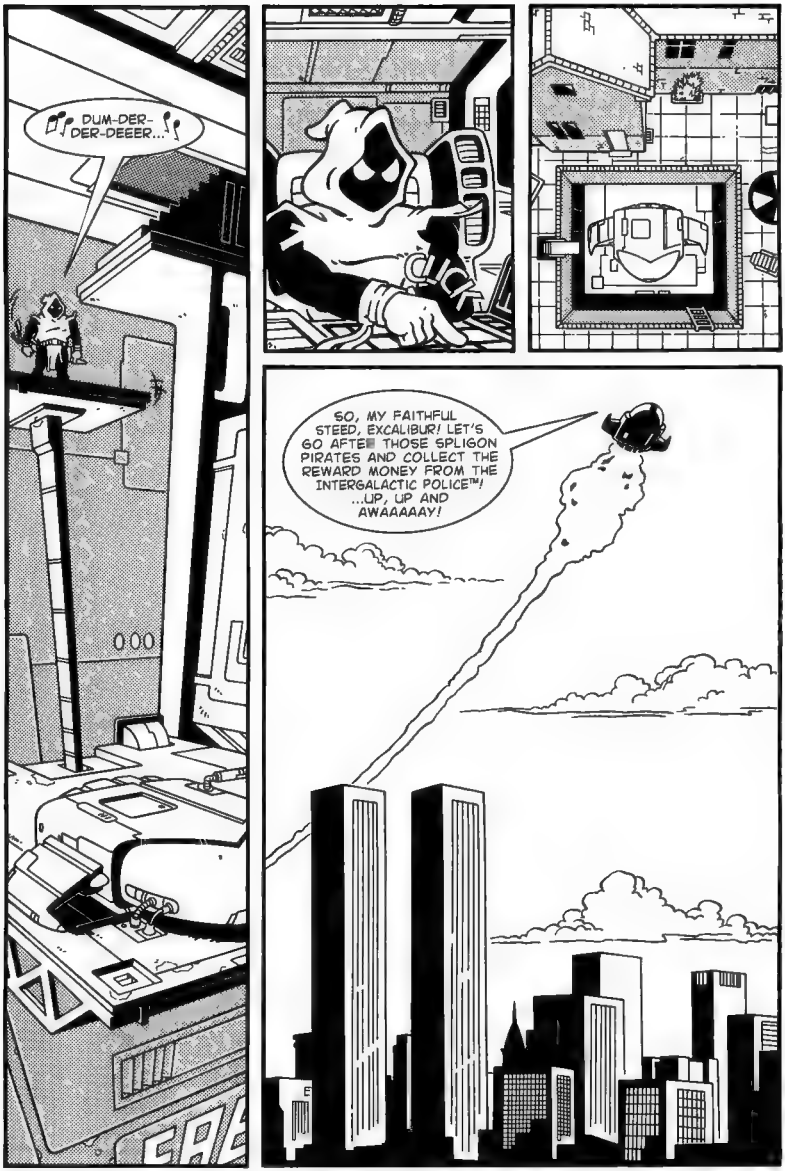


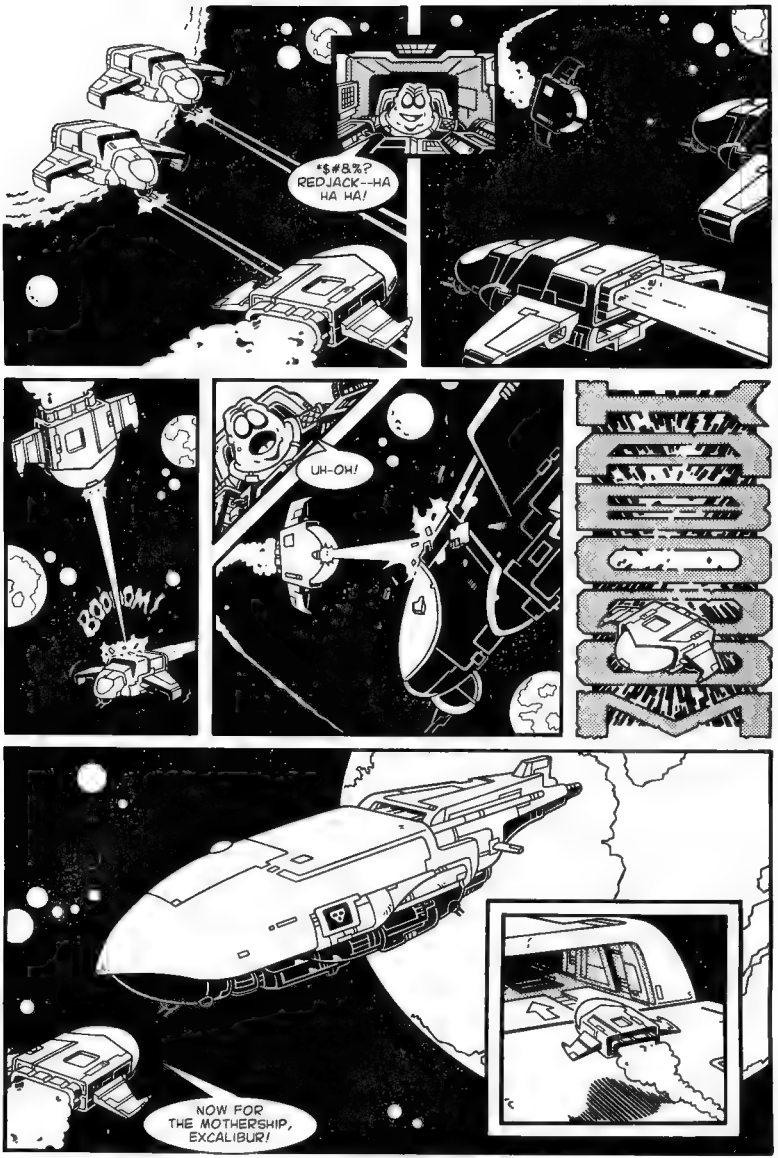
MY PSYCHIC IS REALLY GOOD, SHE CAN EVEN DO READINGS OVER THE PHONE. I ALWAYS WRITE DOWN WHAT SHE SAYS, 'CUZ SOMETIMES IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE TILL LATER... SOMETIMES YEARS LATER.



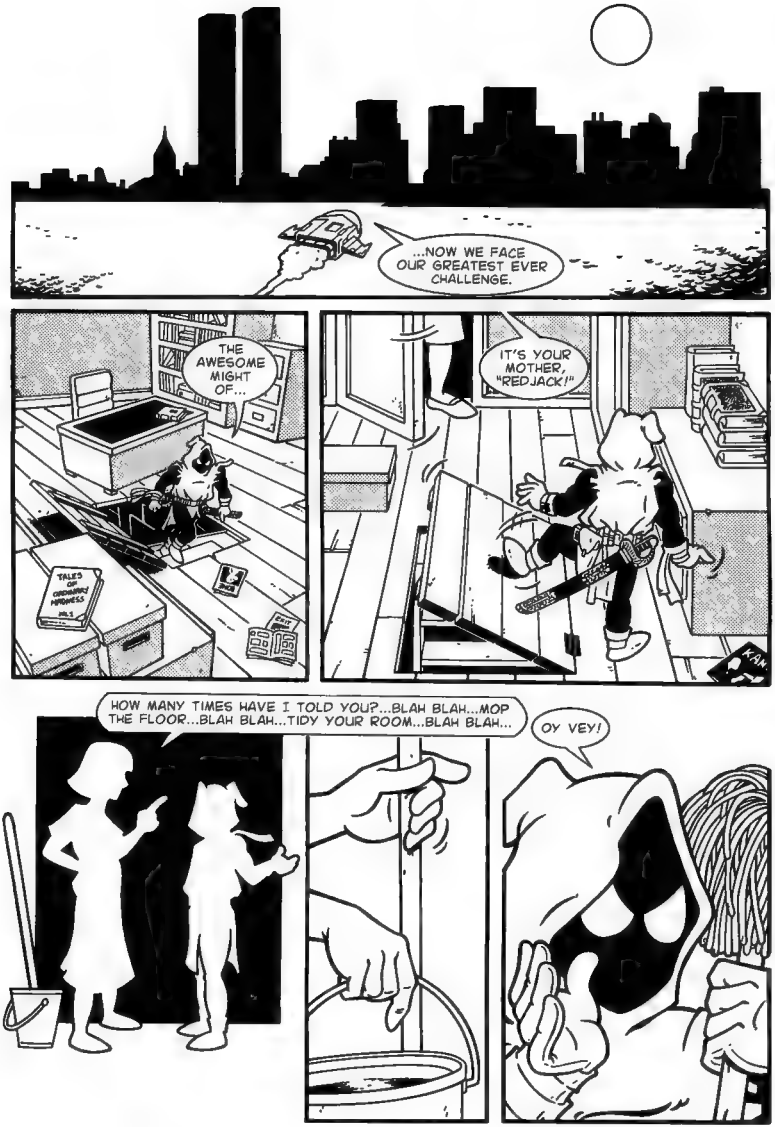

THAT AIN'T PIZZA. THERE WAS THIS PIZZA PLACE WE HAD BACK HOME WHERE THE PIZZA WAS SO GOOD... YOU COULD TASTE EVERY TOMATO.
THE END

AHA!
WANTED
HMM...STRIKE A HEROIC KIRBYESQUE POSE...
RED JACK
NOPE, NOT QUITE.


DUM-DER-DER-DEEER...!
SO, MY FAITHFUL STEED, EXCALIBUR! LET'S GO AFTER THOSE SPLIGON PIRATES AND COLLECT THE REWARD MONEY FROM THE INTERGALACTIC POLICE™!
...UP, UP AND AWAAAAAY!


*$#&%?
REDJACK--HA HA HA!
BOOM!
UH-OH!
NOW FOR THE MOTHERSHIP, EXCALIBUR!

(OH NO, IT'S REDJACK!)
(HE CAN'T GET US ALL-- RUSH HIM!)
KRAKK!
HIII-YA!
BLAM!
BLAM!
OKAY, BOYS! COME 'N GET 'EM!
UHHHH
GROAN
HOW DID YOU DO IT, RJ?
WELL, THERE WERE 17 OF 'EM. FIRST OF ALL... BLAH BLAH BLA
("HE CAN'T GET US ALL," YOU SAID. "RUSH HIM," YOU SAID. HA!)
(OOPS!)
COME, EXCALIBUR, WE HAVE OUR REWARD...


...NOW WE FACE OUR GREATEST EVER CHALLENGE.
THE AWESOME MIGHT OF...
TALES OF ORDINARY HEROES VOL.5
IT'S YOUR MOTHER, "REDJACK!"
KAM
HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I TOLD YOU?...BLAH BLAH...MOP THE FLOOR...BLAH BLAH...TIDY YOUR ROOM...BLAH BLAH...
OY VEY!

CLASSICS DESECRATED

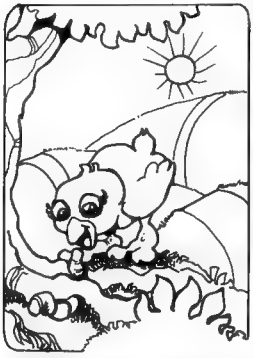
THE STORY OF CHICKEN LICKEN

STORY BY DOUG WHEELER © ART BY BODÉ '94

ONE DAY CHICKEN LICKEN WAS PECKING THE ENDS OFF WORMS WHEN—

FLIP! A PARTICLE OF ULTRA VIOLET SMACKED HER ON HER HEAD!

OH GRACIOUS ME THE OZONE IS FALLING! I MUST GO TELL BIGGIE PIGGIE TO STOP HIS POLLUTING OR WE'LL ALL DIE OF CANCER!



AND SO SHE WENT ALONG, AND WENT ALONG, AND WENT ALONG, TILL SHE CAME TO THE INDUSTRIALIST BIGGIE PIGGIE...

THE OZONE IS FALLING YOU HAVE TO STOP POLLUTING OR WE'LL ALL DIE!!

CHICKEN LICKEN YOU'RE GONNA GITCHYA' SELF KILLED TALKIN' LIKE DAT.... BESIDES THAT LUMP ON YOUR HEAD IS BARELY NOTICEABLE...

IT'S NOT MY FAULT IF THE OZONE IS FALLING I'M DOIN' MY BEST TO STOP IT BY BLOCKIN' OUT THE SUN...

AND SO STILL WORRIED, CHICKEN LICKEN DECIDED TO TELL HER SENATOR, SLOWY-MOLEY...

SENATOR THE OZONE IS FALLING!

WHAT, WHO?

IT'S ME CHICKEN LICKEN THE OZONE IS FALLING AND IT GAVE ME A CANCEROUS GROWTH

I CAN'T SEE A THING IT'S A PREREQUISITE FOR MY JOB. HOWEVER I AM IN CHARGE OF THE COMMITTEE WHICH OVER SEES THE COMMITTEE ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW COMMITTEES..

AND WE COULD COMMISSION A STUDY ON YOUR PROBLEM AS SOON AS THERES A CELEBRITY AND PRESS COVERAGE INVOLVED, OR ELSE SOME NEW SCANDAL WE'D LIKE TO DIVERT ATTENTION FROM...

AND SO, STILL NOT SATISFIED, CHICKEN LICKEN LEFT SLOWY-MOLEY AND WENT TO TELL THE PRESIDENT QUICKIE SLICKIE....

QUICKIE SLICKIE THE OZONE IS FALLING, THE OZONE IS FALLING!!

THE OZONE'S NOT A PROBLEM CHICKEN LICKEN! THESE OPINION POLLS SAY IT WON'T AFFECT MY RE-ELECTION PLANS AT ALL!

SO DON'T GO WORRYING YOUR SILLY MUTATED HEAD ONE BIT MORE. I ASSURE YOU I'LL TALK AND GESTURE ABOUT THE OZONE PROBLEM WHEN EVER I'M SPEAKING BEFORE THE ENVIRONMENTALISTS!

AND SO CHICKEN-LICKEN WENT AWAY AND DIED, AND NEITHER THE SENATOR NOR THE PRESIDENT HAD TO WORRY ABOUT HER VOTE AGAIN. AND THUS, THEIR BOSS, BIGGIE PIGGIE COULD POLLUTE HAPPILY EVER AFTER.

I LIKE IT!

MMM GOOD

TASTES BETTER OUT OF THE SIDE OF YOUR HEAD!

THE END

BACK ISSUES FOR SALE

NEGATIVE BURN

Issue #
No. 1, 8 . . . . . $5.00 each
No. 2 . . . . . $4.00
No. 3 . . . . . $8.00
No. 4-7, 9-12, 14-up . . . . . $2.95 each
No. 13 . . . . . $3.95
Best of Year 1 (Trade paperback) $9.95

SPIN-OFFS AND RELATED TITLES

BLACK MIST

No. 1-4 From James Pruett and Avido Khahaifa. This is the saga of a pained man involved in a deluded frantic struggle to regain his sanity during World War I. Issue two guest-stars KILROY. Covers by Ken Meyer Jr. 32 pages . . . . . $2.95 each

BONESHAKER

No. 1 A collection of Phillip Hester's popular serial that ran in the pages of NEGATIVE BURN. 64 pages $3.50

CALIBRATIONS

No. 1 Features the very first appearance of KILROY by Joe Pruett and Bil Ruth. Contributors include Brent Truax, Patrick Zircher, Vince Locke, Kyle Garrett, and Guy Davis. 48 pages. VERY LIMITED SUPPLY. . . . $10.00

DOMINIQUE

Leaping from the pages of DARK HORSE PRESENTS and NEGATIVE BURN, Charles and Lisa Moore's popular character, DOMINIQUE, now stars in her own series of one-shots. 32 pages. Choices are FAMILY MATTERS, WHITE KNUCKLE DRIVE, and PROTECT AND SERVE. . . . . $2.95 each

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No. 0 Features a new lead story by creator Joe Pruett and artist Ken Meyer Jr., plus the hard to find first appearance from CALIBRATIONS. Cover art by Brain Bolland! 32 pages. $2.95

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No. 1 One-shot leading into the new series by Joe Pruett, Guy Burwell, and Ray Snyder. Bonus gallery section featuring Guy Davis, Vince Locke, Terry Moore, Phillip Hester, Ken Meyer Jr., and Paul Pope. 32 pages. . $2.95

KILROY: THE SHORT STORIES

No. 1 A collection of all the previous Kilroy short stories from 1992-94 that have appeared in CALIBRATIONS, NEGATIVE BURN, and HIGH CALIBER. 48 pages. $2.95

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ACWORTH, GA 30101

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$25.01 to $75.00 . . . . . Add $5.00
over $75.00. . . . . FREE

ISSUES

Letters

Link W. Herrman
Goddard, KS

Joe,

I'll save my comments on BONESHAKER for Phillip Hester as the collection is out.

THE CHICKEN THAT KNEW, LIKE, EVERYTHING was an OK story. The art was more satisfying than the script. The story was too familiar and not different enough in execution for my taste. I am willing to give this team another try. They show promise.

Bob Burden's short was satisfying, but I missed his unique visual storytelling. Any chance of him upping the frequency of his ongoing series?

FIRES I WISHED I'D SEEN is one of the better of Alan Moore's songs. Colleen Doran's art shows her stretching from what I've seen of her A DISTANT SOIL work. She users harsher lines and more shadow and contrast.

Stephen Cheng's CYBERREAL ORBIT was a fun short. As an experienced netsurfer, this tale hit home. You can never really tell who is on the other end. Apparently the girl was not that experienced in the ways of the net. It appeared she was looking for the persona that he was projecting. I enjoyed the triple dose of CLASSICS DESECRATED. "The Organs in the Revolt" was the best of the bunch, though it was nice to see one of Doug Wildey's final pieces. Did I spy a certain Aardvark in the final panel of "The Skunk"? (grin)

Gilbert's THE CIRCLE GAME gave a nice retroactive look at his early work. I find it interesting to look at earlier works compared to later works and see how they have grown and changed. Remind me not to pick up that hitchhiker.

Watch for Bob Burden's upcoming MYSTERYMEN series from Dark Horse Comics. Now if only he could get FLAMING CARROT out more often.

Letters

write to:
P.O. Box 893
Acworth, GA 30101

Olav Beemer
The Netherlands

Dear Joe,

NEGATIVE BURN #15 was an altogether very intriguing issue, mixing thought-provoking stories with some light-hearted ones, yet overall maintaining the usual mature attitude I've come to grow accustomed to and love.

First off, MR. TRIANGLEHEAD by Jim Calafiore was by far the most intriguing story of this very issue, presenting us yet another take on the voyeurism cliche as seen in a myriad of movies, TV shows and novels. Jim's afterword proved to be equally thought-provoking and perhaps even more so than the actual tale, filling in the readers on some of his thoughts on the subject. I, for one, think it's increasingly scary a thought to see voyeurs become obsessed with something or somebody they know they can never get, ultimately leading to death and/or destruction. Jim's story therefore can be perceived as a critical statement on modern society, and I think he deserves all the praise he can get for his superb job.

Bolland's MR. MAMOULIAN installment was perchance his best published in this book to date. It's the ultimate attack on the bureaucratic governments, which keep producing ostensibly endless stacks on paper, moving them about, in the meantime not knowing exactly why or because of what they are doing it. All in all, a nice addition to the MR. MAMOULIAN saga.

THE INVINCIBLE MAN provided us with a violent contrast between the seemingly invincible man and the utter destruction the infamous Enola Gay has brought during the Second World War. Even though it was a short story of a mere four pages, I nevertheless found it to be an interesting one, both well-written and inspiringly drawn.

If artwork ever blew my socks off, it must've been Phil Wagstaff's art on EINSTEIN'S LAST CASE! Granted, the story itself was quite a welcome change of pace, bestowing upon the brilliant Einstein the role of a detective, but it was without a shred of a doubt Phil's awe-inspiring artwork which did the trick for me. Both realistic and striking, his visuals really have a huge impact, thus giving this tale its unique feeling. I really hope you decide to make use of Phil's magnificent talents in the foreseeable future, Joe, as I would more than appreciate it!

When I first was offered Jim Calafiore's story, I was a little hesitant about accepting it. You see, a personal friend of mine has been having trouble with a stalker who the police refuse to do anything about, even though he's threatened to kill her. I was afraid that it would be in bad taste for me to run Jim's story. It was only after Jim and I talked it over and decided on writing an editorial about what he was "trying to say" that the go-ahead was given. I decided that I'm not going to let a stalker dictate to me what I could publish. Thanks, Jim, for bringing this topic out in the open so successfully.

Letters

Mark Allcock
England

Dear Joe,

Let me begin by congratulating you on NEGATIVE BURN. I've long suspected that the full potential of the comics medium for story telling through dramatic visual images was being ignored by the comics industry: playing it safe with super-hero comics and constantly churning out variations of the same proven format. But NEGATIVE BURN, in only a few issues, has shown that rewards can be reaped from taking risks with more complicated and mature stories which still have all the visual power and immediacy of the traditional super-hero comics.

You've hit the nail right on the head, Mark. The comics medium can be so much more than just super-heroes, and until super-heroes stop dominating this industry we will never to be looked upon as a true art form.

Ross Peterson
Homewood, IL

Hey Joe,

MR. MAMOULIAN and CLASSICS DESECRATED are your strongest features. "Vince's Place" (LOST LAUGHTER) is tedious to follow. Overall, there is a wide variety of excellent material in this book. NEGATIVE BURN is a class act. It is avant-garde without being vulgar.

Will KILROY comics be available by mail?

I think if you had followed LOST LAUGHTER in it's original series (4 issues of which were published) you would change your mind about it. I liked it so much that I wanted to give Jeff a chance to finish it when finances and sales indicated otherwise. If anyone's interested in seeing how the series started, you can order directly from Jeff at: Bad Habit, PO Box 3684, Chico, CA 95927. Issue three is sold out, but the other issues are available still for $2.50 each.

Yes, KILROY IS HERE the series will available by subscription at the same address as NEGATIVE BURN: Joe Pruett, PO Box 893, Acworth, GA 30101. A one-year subscription is $18.00 for six issues. You should always try your local comics shop first, and then, as a last resort, subscribe from me. Support your local shop.

Brian Luzum
Washington, DC

Dear Mr. Pruett,

Thank you for your effort in putting together NEGATIVE BURN every month. So far, I've really enjoyed it. I suppose that shouldn't surprise me too much. I find that I usually enjoy anthology titles and try to support them whenever I can. I don't always enjoy every story but more often than not, you have stories that are worth reading. If anyone's keeping track, I definitely would like to see more of T.O.M. FOOLERY.

I've managed to get every issue so far except #2. I've been trying to track it down in stores around DC but so far no luck. You mention in NEGATIVE BURN that you sell back issues, but in looking through the last 4 or 5 issues, I didn't see any mention of the prices. If you could please tell me the price, I would like to order NEGATIVE BURN #2 directly from you, assuming that it's still available.

I am looking forward to future issues of NEGATIVE BURN, and also your solo work such as more KILROY stories and the APPARITION. I hope these new ventures are as successful as they deserve to be.

If anyone else is interested in back issues, you can look in this issue and find a back issues ordering page that does include prices. These prices are up-to-date and all recent issues are also available.

You'll get your wish, Brian. We're planning some more T.O.M. FOOLERY before too long.

Also, to clear things up for those who may be confused, James Pruett, the writer of the APPARITION and the Associate Publisher for Caliber Comics, is my twin brother. It's funny to see how many times he gets credit for KILROY or something else I'm writing, while I get credit for his work. Being a twin, it's something we've both grown used to throughout life.

Jason T. Murdock
Westerly, RI

Dear Mr. Pruett

Just wanted to thank you for putting together anther great issue of NEGATIVE BURN. But I have just one question: Where did you get the name NEGATIVE BURN? Sounds like a way to get rid of third degree burns.

Good question, Jason. Actually, consulting editor Charles Moore came up with the title. We had a list of about 30 titles to choose from and we settled on NEGATIVE BURN. Apparently, it's a term used in a printing process where you burn negatives to get a desired look. We just thought it sounded "neat" and went with it. A lot of people would look at us funny when we first started getting contributors to our anthology. "What was the name of the comic again?"

bebop

poetry

drugs

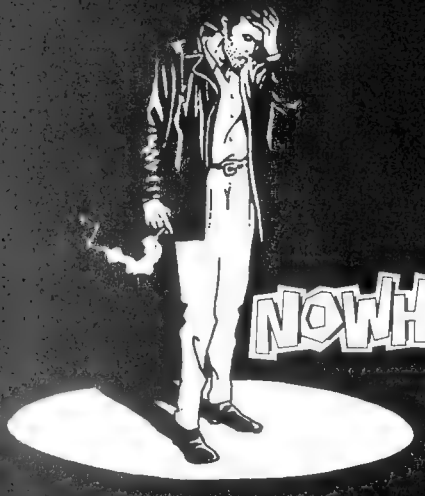
angst

booze

chicks

bondage

murder



a one-way trip to

NOWHERESVILLE

summer 1995

CALIBER™ COMICS

CHECKLIST

MARCH / APRIL 1995

FLAXEN: ALTER EGO

Caught between the good and evil side of herself, Flaxen faces the inner demons of her alter ego and it proves to be the toughest battle of her life. Featuring the talents of James Hudnall, Brian Bendis and David Mack. With covers by Ken Meyer Jr. and Adam Hughes. FULL COLOR $2.95

FRINGE graphic novel

Collecting the first four issues of the popular Fringe series written by Paul Tobin (Attitude Lad) and illustrated by Phillip Hester (Swamp Thing). 128-pages. $12.95

KABUKI: Circle Of Blood #2

Kabuki and the women of the Noh wage an all out war against Japan's Chinese Connection. By David Mack. $2.95

NEGATIVE BURN #21

Featuring the return of Trollords by Scott Beaderstadt, Paul Fricke and Len Strazewski. Plus Brian Bolland, Marc Erickson, Paul Pope, and a Classics Desecrated by Doug Wheeler and Mark Bode, plus more. $2.95

NOSFERATU

A symphony of shadows...a symphony of shudders. Rafael Nieves and Ken Holewczynski present their adaption of F.W. Murnau's classic film of life and the undead. FULL COLOR $3.95

OZ #6

The first chapter to "Assault on the Emerald City" finds Kevin, Peter, Mary and the Oz Freedom fighters continue their battle to free Oz. $2.95

REALM #12

A major upheaval in the Realm is taking place as Sandra prepares Drohm for war against Lady Falla. After years of separation, Silverfawn and Dom are reunited, but will he accept her now that she has a son. $2.95

RENFIELD #4

Renfield is pulled into the darkness that his Master offers him. Now that he truly understands the price of immortality, will he accept it? $2.95

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This 64-page issue picks up where the popular Happy the Clown series ended...with Happy left the fall guy for the CID's assassination of the President. $3.50

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See StormQuest in action against the man who is proving more and more that he's nothing but trouble, Merlin himself! Written by Tom and Mary Bierbaum with art by Willie Peppers. FULL COLOR $1.95

THE APPARITION: Abandoned #1

The archangel Adriel must surmount temptation from Lucifer and overwhelming danger to reunite a forsaken child and his estranged mother. A contemporary tale of the ancient Struggle of Man. 48-pages. Presentation Format. $3.95

BLACK MIST: Anguish of the Mist

The complete four issue collection of the psychological horror series Black Mist, plus the debut story that appeared in Negative Burn. 112-page Graphic Novel. $12.95

DOMINIQUE: Killzone #1

Nikki's car-thief "brother" becomes a hostage in an underworld turf war and Nikki must deal with the devil to save a friend whose own loyalties may not run as deep. A tale from Dominique's days as a Repo Man. $2.95

KILROY IS HERE #1

Reporter Dan Bolin begins his quest to expose Kilroy, a being of unknown power and origin. Written by Joe Pruett with art by Ken Meyer Jr. $2.95

NEGATIVE BURN #22

Featuring an original EXIT story by Nabiel Kanan. Also Brian Bolland, Philip Zavier, and Jim Frier and Phillip Hester collaborate on Poacher. Plus many more. Cover by Moebius. $2.95

OZ #7

The Freedom Fighters battle a new menace, the Bane Wolves, while Kevin, Peter, Scarecrow, Tin Man and Lion attempt to walk right into the Emerald City through the main gates. $2.95

REALM #13

Alex finally speaks after being in a comatose state, the mystery behind Darkoth is revealed and Dom enters a pact to save someone dear to him and it will cost him what he treasures most. Written by Brent Truax with art by Paul Kowalski and featuring a cover by David Mack. $2.95

SAVAGE HENRY: Headstrong #2

With the aid of Ethericore the muse, Savage Henry visits a curio shop that turns out to be his own head, where he is introduced to his own muse. Art and story by Matt Howarth. $2.95

STORMQUEST #6

Join the team as they travel to the war-torn 22nd Century in search of Shrike and become embroiled in a battle with the Eastern Empire and their futuristic Samuroids! Written by Tom and Mary Bierbaum with art by Willie Peppers. FULL COLOR $1.95

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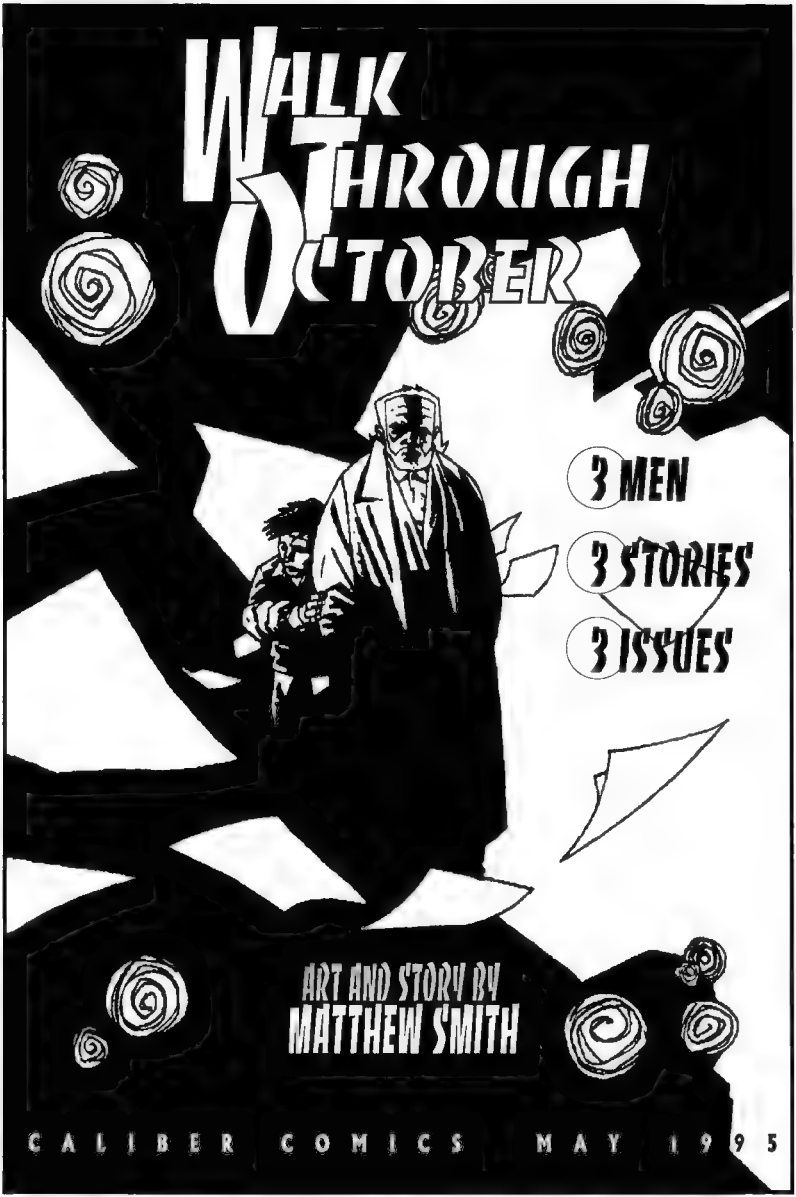
WALK THROUGH OCTOBER
3 MEN
3 STORIES
3 ISSUES
ART AND STORY BY
MATTHEW SMITH
CALIBER COMICS MAY 1995

ARE YOU PREPARED FOR THE NEXT BRITISH INVASION?

story and art by **Nabiel Kanan**

bi-monthly beginning this summer

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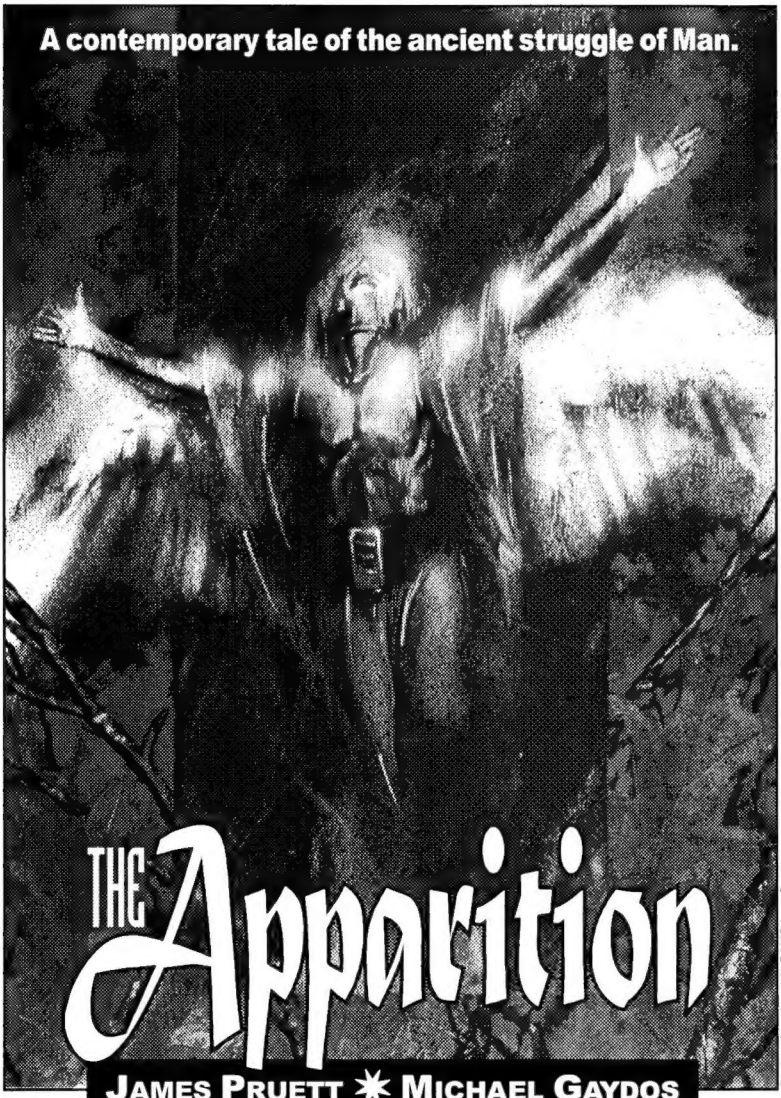
A contemporary tale of the ancient struggle of Man.
THE Apparition
JAMES PRUETT ✶ MICHAEL GAYDOS
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48 pages of fully painted black & white art
Featured in Caliber's new Presentation Format

Available April 1995

CALIBER COMICS

Negative Burn/ Kilroy Is Here tour 1995

March 23
Joe Pruett (writer and editor of Negative Burn, Kilroy Is Here),
David Mack (writer/ artist of Kabuki),
Brian Michael Bendis (artist of Flaxen),
Jim Frier (writer in Negative Burn #19 and #22),
James Pruett (writer of The Apparition) and
Michael Gaydos (artist of The Apparition)
at **Comics Plus**, 14216 Michigan Ave., Dearborn, Michigan.

April 8
Joe Pruett (writer and editor of Negative Burn, Kilroy Is Here),
David Mack (writer/ artist of Kabuki) and
Andrew Robinson (artist of Barbwire, DHP, Omni)
at **Comic Book World**, Cincinnati, Ohio.

April 9
Joe Pruett (writer and editor of Negative Burn, Kilroy Is Here),
Paul Pope (writer/artist of THB),
P. Craig Russell (artist of Sandman, Oscar Wilde) and
Andrew Robinson (artist of Barbwire, DHP, Omni)
at **Central City Comics**, Columbus, Ohio.

April 10
Joe Pruett (writer and editor of Negative Burn, Kilroy Is Here),
Paul Pope (writer/artist of THB),
P. Craig Russell (artist of Sandman, Oscar Wilde)
and Andrew Robinson (artist of Barbwire, DHP, Omni)
at **Dark Star Comics**, Yellow Springs, Ohio.

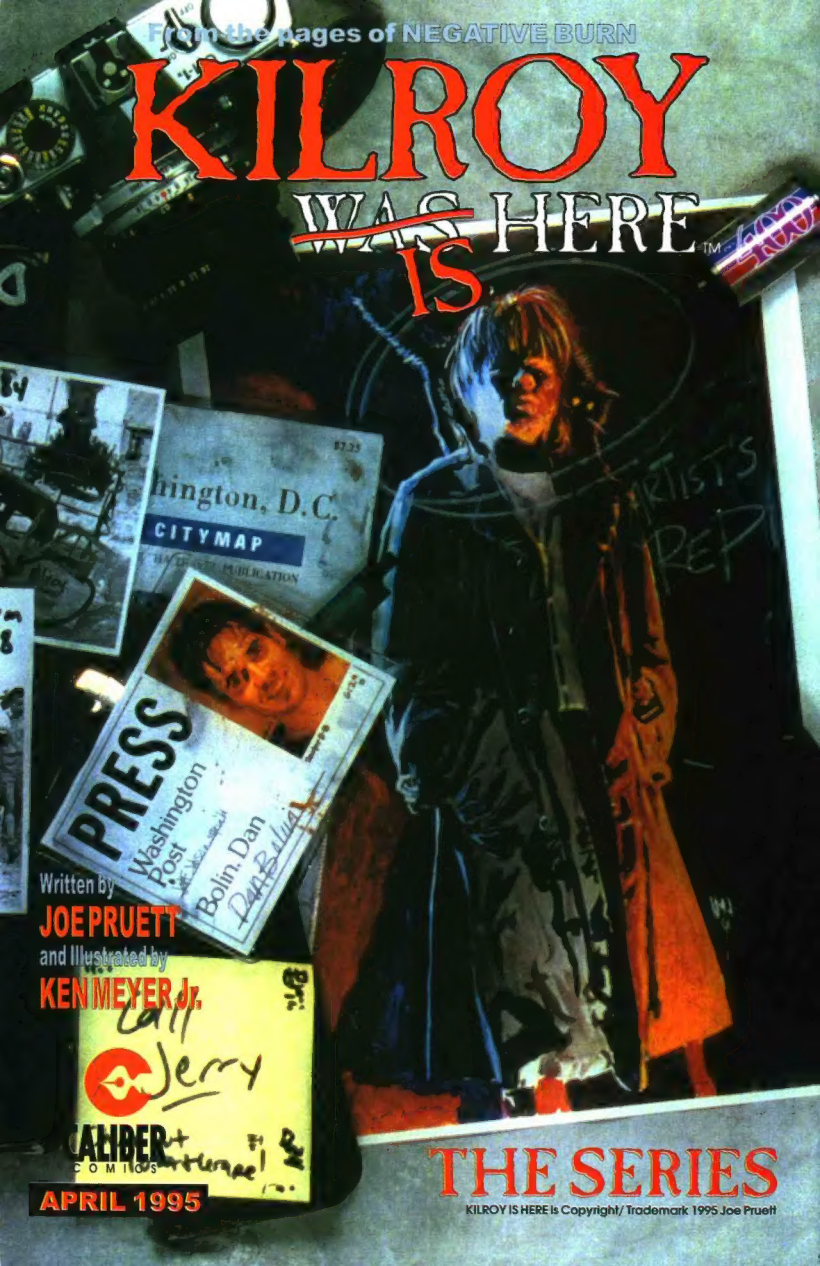
April 11
Joe Pruett (writer and editor of Negative Burn, Kilroy Is Here)
and Andrew Robinson (artist of Barbwire, DHP, Omni)
at **Downtown Comics**, 111 N. Pennsylvania St., Indianapolis, Indiana.

April 13
Joe Pruett (writer and editor of Negative Burn, Kilroy Is Here),
David Mack (writer;/artist of Kabuki) and
Andrew Robinson (artist of Barbwire, DHP, Omni)
at **Comic Book World**, Louisville, Kentucky.

April 14
Joe Pruett (writer and editor of Negative Burn, Kilroy Is Here),
David Mack (writer;/artist of Kabuki),
Guy Burwell (artist of Kilroy: Revelations) and
Andrew Robinson (artist of Barbwire, DHP, Omni)
at **Star Clipper Books**, St. Louis, Missouri.

From the pages of NEGATIVE BURN

KILROY ~~WAS~~ IS HERE™



Written by
JOE PRUETT
and Illustrated by
KEN MEYER Jr.

APRIL 1995

THE SERIES

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